

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2007

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ted Packard, Scott Smith, Ron Sender, and Christopher Tonkin. Kevin Davis, Joey Glushko, and Brian Postelwaite also attended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33.

*The January minutes were approved without change.

Review final plans for the 4th annual ABAC Winter Social. Date is Thursday night, February 15, 2007. Stephan will bring juice and Scott will bring chips or crackers. We will meet at 6:30 and Joey will bring the projector. Phil Goff will be the main speaker and will talk about bicycle facilities in Portland, Oregon. Jack sent out the flyer, and there will be a notice in the Advocate.

Discuss preliminary proposal for the Arlington Bicentennial Bicycle Race (possibly in late September or early October), with local event organizer Paul Perkins. Mr. Perkins did not make the meeting. He is trying to arrange a pro or semi-pro bicycle race in Arlington. The discussion was tabled until the promoters talk with us.

Discuss preliminary plans for the annual Bike-Arlington Tour, scheduled for Sunday, May 20. We began to discuss possible routes for the Tour. Joey suggested we start at Symmes, but Ron thought it was too dangerous. Scott suggested passing the Locke Farm in Winchester. Joey thought riding down Broadway to the Sunnyside neighborhood and also into Medford would be educational. If we take this course, we could return to Thorndike field via the Alewife Connector path. Jack objected to starting at Thorndike because there is no bathroom. Another possibility is starting at Drake Village and riding past the Reservoir then down Lowell St. through Downing Sq. and onto the Bike Path. Joey asked about starting at the Thompson School. Again there are no available bathrooms.

We decided to start in the Center and then thought about an Alewife Reservation theme. Scott mapped out a route starting in the Center working our way over to the Reservation vial Acorn Park and back. Jack suggested that we have a reception at the end of the ride at the Schwamb Mill as we did last year. We thought that we could incorporate most of these suggestions. Scott and Jack will continue the route planning and report at the next meeting.

Update on Alewife Brook path project, proposed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Jack drafted a memo to the Selectmen which Joey will edit. The memo will support the construction of the new path especially from Alewife to Henderson St. The memo includes the importance of the

connections the new path will make. The Open Space Committee also supports that path concept. The Somerville Bike Committee has written a memo expressing the desire that the Path be on the Somerville side of the brook. When Jack and Joey complete the memo, they will send it around for comment.

Update on reprinting Minuteman Bikeway brochure. Jack has been getting estimates for the cost of the reprint. Joey is exploring the sponsorship (possibly Cambridge Savings Bank). We will reprint 5,000 copies of the existing brochure and when we run out, the brochure can be redesigned and updated later.

MWRA meeting on project affecting Minuteman Bikeway in Arlington. Jack will advise on directing traffic on the Path while sewer work is being done. We don't yet know precisely what the project is or how extensive it will be.

Open Forum. Kevin told us about a film screening at Livable Streets Alliance about converting streets for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Joey told us that the Open Space Committee is developing a new plan and they are having an open meeting to encourage ideas and participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.